



## Project description

### Ovarian cycle characteristics and sexual swellings in Simakobu monkeys (*Simias concolor*)

Primates with conspicuous sex skin swellings typically live in groups having female-biased adult sex ratios. In contrast to almost all other Asian colobines these swellings have also been observed in pig-tailed langurs (*Simias concolor*), endemic to the Mentawai islands, West Sumatra. Until now prolonged observations of recognizable individuals were not possible and therefore it is not known whether these swellings are of the ordinary or exaggerated type and what function they serve. In this study we will describe the type of swelling in detail and monitor the swelling patterns in several females of fully habituated groups of *Simias concolor*. At the same time we will collect fecal samples of females for quantitative hormone measurements. By combining the two sets of data we will then be able to describe the relationship between patterns of sexual swellings and hormonal changes during the female ovarian cycle. The new information will be used to explain the adaptive function of swellings in *Simias concolor* and to discuss this phenomenon in the context with sexual swellings known from other old world primates.